

The Smith-Sherlock Store
North side of South Pass Avenue, just
east of Price Street
South Pass City
Fremont County
Wyoming

HABS No. WYO-49

HABS
WYO,
7-SOPAC,
22-

PHOTOGRAPHS
WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA
REDUCED COPIES OF MEASURED DRAWINGS

Historic American Buildings Survey
Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation
National Park Service
Department of the Interior
Washington, D. C. 20005

THE SMITH-SHERLOCK STORE

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Location: North side of South Pass Avenue, just east of Price Street, South Pass City, Fremont County, Wyoming.
Universal Transverse Mercator Coordinates: (USGS South Pass City Quadrangle Map) 12.680840.4703920.

Present Owner: State of Wyoming.

Present Occupant: None.

Present Use: It is a store, U. S. Post Office and museum used by the Wyoming Recreation Commission.

Statement of Significance: This is the longest operating store and U. S. Post Office in South Pass City.

PART I. HISTORICAL INFORMATION

A. Physical History:

1. Date of erection: ca. 1898.
2. Architect: Unknown.
3. Original and subsequent owners: Legal description of property: Lot 99 on South Pass Avenue, South Pass City, Fremont County, Wyoming.

(Note: For further information on land ownership in South Pass City see the HABS Report on South Pass City, WYO-27.) James Smith had the Smith-Sherlock Store built ca. 1898 and supposedly used logs that had originally been used for an Episcopal Church. The store also functioned as the United States Post Office for South Pass City, served by postmasters from the Sherlock and Smith families until 1948. The land on which the store stood was purchased from Barney Tibbals by Charles Van Sickle in 1899 and later sold to the Federal Gold Mining Company, who sold the land back to the Sherlock family for \$1. The owners of the store were Mrs. Janet Smith, John Sherlock, William Sherlock, and Peter Sherlock. Mrs. Janet Smith died in 1923 and her share of the Smith-Sherlock Store went to Jennie Sherlock. John Sherlock died in 1936 and his interest in the Sherlock Store was divided between Lulu Sherlock, Richard Sherlock, James Sherlock, and Donald Sherlock.

Janet Sherlock died in 1938 leaving her property to Anna Tibbals and James Tibbals. Peter Sherlock died in 1947 leaving his share in the store to William Sherlock, Anna Tibbals, Janett Payne, Norman Smith, Richard Sherlock, James Sherlock, Donald Sherlock and Lulu Topham. During 1948 and 1949 various members of the Sherlock family sold their shares in the store to James Sherlock for \$10 and other considerations. James Sherlock sold the Wolverine Lode Claim, on which the store stood, to Fred Stratton for \$10 in 1949. Stratton sold the store and the rest of the South Pass City business district to Mr. and Mrs. John Woodring in 1955. In 1966, the store and the rest of the Woodring holdings in South Pass City became the property of the Wyoming 75th Anniversary Commission, Inc. That corporation presented the property, on July 16, 1967, to the Old South Pass Historical Preserve, a commission of the state of Wyoming. In 1969, the Wyoming Legislature transferred the property to the Wyoming Recreation Commission.

4. Alterations and additions: Electricity has been added to the original structure and some internal modifications of shelving and storage have taken place since the store has been in constant use.

B. Historical Events and Persons Connected with the Structure:

This store was the property of the pioneer Sherlock family. They were one of the few families to remain in South Pass City after the gold rush ended. The original owner, James Smith, was the step-father of Peter Sherlock.

C. Sources of Information:

1. Old views: Photographic file, Wyoming Recreation Commission, Cheyenne, Wyoming.

2. Bibliography:

- a. Primary and unpublished sources:

Hebard, Grace, 1920. Interview of Mrs. Janet Sherlock. Archived at Western History Research Center, Coe Library, University of Wyoming, Laramie, Wyoming.

Shaffer, Thomas, planner for the Wyoming Recreation Commission; interview in Cheyenne, Wyoming on June 19, 1973.

Trevor, Marjorie C., "History of Carter-Sweetwater County, Wyoming to 1875." Master's thesis, University of Wyoming, 1954.

b. Secondary and published sources:

Muths, Thomas. Restoration Master Plan, South Pass City, Wyoming. Jackson, Wyoming: Design Associates, 1972.

Prepared by John Paige
Project Historian
National Park Service
Summer, 1973

PART II. ARCHITECTURAL INFORMATION

A. General Statement:

1. Architectural character: This is a typical and well preserved example of a turn-of-the-century general store.
2. Condition of fabric: Very good.

B. Description of Exterior:

1. Over-all dimensions: This rectangular building, approximately 22' x 45', has three bays along each side.
2. Foundations: Random rubble stone of local red slate shist.
3. Wall construction, finish and color: The side walls and lower rear wall are of unfinished hand-hewn lodgepole pine logs. The upper rear wall (gable) has been surfaced with random width unfinished rough-sawn lumber. The front wall is five-inch, V-groove horizontal siding, painted white with green trim.
4. Structural system, framing: Log bearing walls on sides and rear, frame on front. Roof and ceiling are framed with 2" x 6" rafters and joists at 24 inches on center.
5. Porches, stoops: Recessed entry at center front opens from adjacent wooden-plank boardwalk and steps.
6. Chimneys: One chimney in center of ridge near rear of building.
7. Openings:
 - a. Doorways and doors: The front entry has a double-leaf door with an eight light window in the upper portion of each leaf.

- b. Windows and shutters: On each side of the recessed entry and adjacent to doors a window is set into the angled wall. Each has a fixed pane of two-lights. Two large fixed windows in front wall, one on either side of entry, have nine-lights. There is one double-hung window with six-over-six lights on the west wall near the rear of the building. It now has a fixed security mesh over the window on the exterior.

8. Roof:

- a. Shape, covering: Gable with wooden shingles.
- b. Cornice, eaves: 1 x 6 rough-sawn raking cornice on rear gable.
- c. Dormers, cupolas: The parapet wall false-front with wooden brackets supporting boxed cornice is raised four inches above ridge.

C. Description of Interior:

- 1. Floor plan: This one-story building consists of one large front room which now serves as a museum and two small rear rooms of equal size. The northwest rear room is now the post office and the northeast rear room is used as a storage room. The northeast rear room has a very low ceiling with an upper level platform for additional storage space.
- 2. Stairways: There is a wooden ships ladder used to reach the platform above the northeast rear room.
- 3. Flooring: Tongue and groove flooring.
- 4. Wall and ceiling finish: The walls are sheets of gypsum board. The lower half is painted green and the upper half is painted tongue and groove wood running the long dimension of the building.
- 5. Doorways and doors: Doors into the rear rooms are wood quarter-paneled. There is one door of tongue and groove boards between the two rear rooms and one door into the small room connecting the Smith-Sherlock Store with the Houghton-Colter Store at the north end of the east wall.
- 6. Special decorative features, trim and cabinet work: There are built-in shelves on the east and west walls. There are pine cabinets with recessed front panels on each side of the store

immediately in front of the back-counter space. There are miscellaneous free standing cabinets in the store for displays. There is a built-in postal box and window on the north wall of the museum opening into the post office room.

7. Hardware: Each leaf of the front entrance doors has a 2" by 11" brass escutcheon with raised floral relief and brass handles.
8. Mechanical equipment: There is an iron heating stove (Iron Clad No. 18 by Chicago Stove Co., Chicago, Illinois) in the center of the main room towards the rear wall. Electric lighting has been added and consists of three drop cords with pull chain over each line of counters.

D. Site:

1. General setting and orientation: The building faces 35 degrees east of south on the north side of South Pass Avenue and is just to the east of the Price Street dead end. This is very close to what was the center of the original town.
2. Outbuildings: There is a coal bin attached to the store on the west side.

Prepared by J. William Rudd
Architect
Project Supervisor
National Park Service
Summer, 1973

PART III. PROJECT INFORMATION

These records were made during the 1973 Wyoming Project undertaken by the Historic American Buildings Survey in cooperation with the Wyoming Recreation Commission. During the project, records were made on twenty-eight (28) individual subjects and six (6) historic areas.

This project was under the general supervision of John Poppeliers, chief of the Historic American Buildings Survey. Project Supervisor was Professor J. William Rudd, Architect, of the University of Cincinnati. Project Historian was John Paige, Oklahoma State University. The measured drawings were prepared by John Uhlir, University of California at Berkeley, Architect; and Student Assistant Architects Richard Duflocq, University of Cincinnati, Clayton Fraser, University of Tennessee, and Richard Wyatt, California Polytechnic University at San Luis Obispo. Jack E. Boucher, HABS staff photographer, provided the photographic record. This report was edited for HABS in 1977 by Candace Reed.

ADDENDUM TO:

SMITH-SHERLOCK STORE

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